

## History and Hysterics: Chanukah 1992

Would you like to experience a community candle lighting, learn the story of Chanukah, dance, eat, win prizes, and have fun all in one evening? Well, that's what you can expect at Sha'ar Zahav's annual Chanukah celebration. It will be held this year on Saturday, December 19 in San Francisco at Laguna Honda Hospital's Simon Theatre, 375 Laguna Honda Blvd. The evening will begin at 7 pm (see more about children's event below) with Havdalah and candle lighting. Please bring your own chanukiah (or menorah, if that's what you called it growing up) and candles for a community candle lighting.

This year's event features Sha'ar Zahav's "Not Ready for Downtown" players in a newly written comedy, *A Mah Jongg Chanukah*. The play tells the story of four members of the sisterhood of Congregation Gesher Mifratz as they attempt to figure out a humorous and novel way to present the story of Chanukah. It will be Chanukah as you've never seen it before!

There will also be a silent auction throughout the length of the evening. An array of goods and services will be auctioned to the highest bidder. Members bid by writing down their name and a price higher than the previous bidder. Donations for the auction are still needed. This is a great way to advertise your business or do something special for the synagogue. Examples of goods and/or services that can be donated are: a bottle of wine, accounting services, art, dinner in your home, dinner at a restaurant, legal services, and books. The possibilities are endless. In addition, ask your neighborhood merchants if they would like to make a donation. For more information or to make a donation please contact Martha or Judy (861-2183).

Now let's talk about food. Latkes will be our major source of nourishment for the evening and we'll be needing a large supply, so get out your frying pans and

*Continued on page 4*

## Creating a Shelter: The First International Conference On Judaism, Feminism and Psychology

In many ways, the First International Conference on Judaism, Feminism and Psychology, held in Seattle October 29-November 1, achieved its goal of providing a safe place for the exploration of "complex, painful and sensitive realities related to being Jewish and female." In some ways it did not.

The theme of the conference, "Creating a Shelter in the Wilderness," used images from the festival of Succoth: dwelling for 40 years in temporary huts in the desert wilderness between Egypt and the Promised Land, representing a time between oppression and freedom.

It is difficult, perhaps impossible, however, to create a setting that feels safe to over 300 Jewish feminists of different sexual orientations, ages, religious orientations, class backgrounds and professions. One of the best things about the conference was that it brought us together from all over the United States

and Canada. It was wonderful to find clusters of Jewish feminists among the more traditional clientele of the Seattle Sheraton. Every time I entered the lobby, I saw so many women who looked like members of my family even though I didn't know them!

The program was diverse and rich, reflecting the wide range of interest of the participants. Evelyn Torton Beck (editor of *Nice Jewish Girls*) spoke on *Judaism, Feminism, and Psychology: Making the Links Visible*. She focused on the intersection of Judaism and psychology, a fairly unexplored area. The co-editor of *Jewish Women in Therapy* (an excellent anthology, with many articles written from a lesbian focus), Rachel Josefowitz Siegel, led a workshop on *The Jewish Woman's Body*. There were many workshops of interest to lesbians, including *Class: The Unspoken Difference* led by

*Continued on page 11*

## Gay and Lesbian Israeli Group

For the past several years, an informal group of gay and lesbian Israelis now residing in the Bay Area have been gathering for social events and to observe holidays together. They have taken the tongue-in-cheek name of "Tzahal," a play on the Hebrew abbreviation for the Israel Defense Forces. However, in this case, it stand for Tzavet Homosexualim Vlesbiot, or the gay and lesbian team.

Several Sha'ar Zahavniks who have spent time in Israel and/or who have Israeli significant others, have participated in their events, and more are welcome. In fact, it was a Sha'ar Zahav-sponsored Tu B'shevat tiul (hike) which brought many of the Israelis together for the first time.

Tzahal is eager to spread the word of their existence and to make sure that all

*Continued on page 8*

## Gathering for People Who Are HIV+

If you are living with HIV or AIDS, you and your partner/lover are invited to a discussion and brunch with Rabbi Yoel Kahn on Sunday, January 17. Please save the date! Details will follow in next month's *Forward*.

## Job Seekers' Lunch Group

CSZ members who are unemployed and/or looking for a job are invited to a luncheon gathering with Rabbi Yoel Kahn on Friday, December 18 at 12 noon at the synagogue. This informal gathering is an opportunity to meet others in a similar situation, exchange ideas, and support one another through a difficult period. Please RSVP to the synagogue office if you plan to attend. Bring a bag lunch and your resumé.



## The Triangle Inside the Star

The election results were greeted with relief and pleasure by many of us. We are all certainly encouraged by the prospect of a national administration which appears to welcome gay and lesbian people more than the previous two. On the state level, Oregon voters rejected Measure 9, a virulently homophobic and discriminatory initiative, endorsed by the religious right. Colorado, meanwhile, passed a measure nullifying existing local anti-gay discrimination statutes and preventing new ones from being enacted. This measure will certainly be appealed on constitutional grounds. The evangelicals and their allies on the religious right have made it clear that they will continue to place the fight against civil equality and equal protection for gay and lesbian people at the top of their agenda.



Rabbi Yoel Kahn

I realized right after the election that we will probably be fighting these battles for the rest of our lives. Like previous generations of our people who had to organize against centuries of discrimination and continuing prejudice, we will have to struggle for our freedom and rights in order that those who come after us will be truly free. Contemplating this future of struggle sometimes discourages me.

However, I was encouraged by the UAHC Northeast Regional Biennial which I attended in Worcester, Massachusetts the weekend before the election. I was overwhelmed by the progress that Reform Judaism has made and by the importance which Reform Jewish leaders place on welcoming and integrating gay and lesbian Jews. Obviously there are not enough Reform Jewish votes to counter the votes of the religious right in a national election, but I am secure in a new way of the support and commitment of our movement.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations is composed of some 800 Reform synagogues in North America. There are 13 regions, and every two years each region has a convention for its rabbis and synagogue leaders. (The national convention is held in alternate years;

the national UAHC convention will be in San Francisco next October.) There are now six congregations which are members of both the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations and the UAHC. I was invited to address the Northeast regional convention at their installation dinner on Saturday evening of the convention and also led a workshop on *Gay and Lesbian Jews and the Synagogue* during the day.

At the 1985 UAHC national biennial convention in Los Angeles, Mike Rankin organized the Reform movement's first convention workshop on *Understanding Our Lesbian and Gay Sisters and Brothers*. That well-attended program was the first in a series of ever larger and more ambitious efforts by the UAHC to reach out, welcome and integrate gay and lesbian Jews into the Reform movement. Since then, the UAHC has passed several resolutions calling for the full inclusion of gay and lesbian Jews in all of our synagogues. Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President of the UAHC, has been an outspoken and eloquent spokesperson on behalf of "the triangle inside the star."

The effect of these years of work was evident to me at my workshop in Worcester. The seminar room was standing room only—and it included rabbis, synagogue presidents and board members from the largest to the smallest congregation. In place of the resistance which I remember from the first years of these types of programs, every one at this gathering was eager to share a success story of how their home congregations had succeeded in welcoming gay and lesbian Jews or wanting to know what steps they could take. Later that evening I spoke to the entire convention about our efforts at CSZ to build a congregation which welcomes and celebrates diversity.

The support and enthusiasm that I experienced at this gathering spoke to my heart. The work we have done to build understanding is now being rewarded. The great majority of gay and lesbian Jews—as well as the counterparts to the many other "wandering Jews" who have made CSZ their home—do not have access to a congregation with a special outreach, like this one; today, more than ever before, all of our congregations are reaching out to bring

in every Jewish soul in need of a communal and spiritual home. I was proud of our movement and proud of the seeds sown and nurtured by so many of you; our entire movement has begun to enjoy the harvest.

## Winter/Spring Education Schedule Announced

With the successful fall semester just ending, it's time to plan your next adventure with adult Jewish learning. Here is a brief look at the upcoming program, details to follow in the January issue of the *Forward*.

Note: all classes begin February 1.

**Prayerbook/Biblical Hebrew**—Phyllis Mintzer will continue her class which began this fall; eight sessions.

**Jewish Philosophies**—Phyllis Mintzer teaches part two of her program for learning about Judaism; eight sessions, new students are welcome.

**Health, Healing and Jewish Perspectives** (tentative title)—Rabbi Nancy Flam will offer a four-session program geared to meet the physical and emotional challenges we all face today.

Additional adult programs are being planned and will be announced in the near future.

The Education Committee would like to thank all of you who supported our survey project. The information is being studied and has already helped us plan programs. The full results will be reported in a future issue of the *Forward*.

—Don Albert

Chair, Education Committee

## Women's Chavurah Game Night

Tired of competing with St. Nick. Come to the Women's Chavurah game night, Thursday evening, December 24, at 7:30 pm. We'll take your mind off Rudolph and the gang with all kinds of games, at the home of Ann Biderman, in San Francisco's Outer Sunset district. Call her (661-5168) for specific directions. Bring a nosh, and if you wish to share your favorite game, bring it, too.

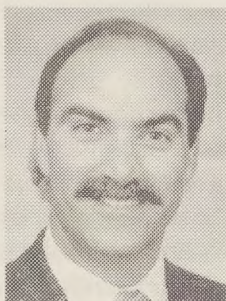


## On Joy and Fun

I've been thinking a lot about having fun lately. Sometimes it seems as if I've forgotten how to do that. With a busy work schedule, family responsibilities, and CSZ, there's precious little time just to play. I've come to recognize that all of those commitments aren't going to go away, so perhaps a solution is to have more fun while I'm fulfilling them. Work, for me, generally brings a lot of pleasure, and in the relatively informal atmosphere of school; there is time for laughter. Kids often tickle my funny bone, and sharing anecdotes and stories with teachers and principles can take the edge off otherwise stressful and sobering situations. Sometimes ten minutes of banter with the principal or school secretary can recharge me before facing a depressed child, an angry parent, or a report that needs to be written.

Over the years, my membership in CSZ has meant lots of hard work. But as with my job, I have found moments of laughter and lightness in the pursuit of my synagogue activities. However, this year I've been more challenged than ever to make sure my responsibilities as President don't preclude me from experiencing those delicious moments of fun. I feel that I've been pretty successful—the shared joke at a Va'ad meeting, an awful stretch in making a pushke pitch, a game of Jewish geography during announcements—all are opportunities for a bit of play.

Synagogue leadership aside, we are all fortunate that the Jewish calendar is full of occasions for celebration and play. There are no requirements to be able to take part in any or all of our unique holiday events. Two of my favorites are Chanukah and Purim. Some of my most joyful moments at CSZ have been "acting" in Megillah Madnesses. This year, the Drama Chavurah, myself included, has created our first CSZ "revision" of the Chanukah story. I am eagerly awaiting the chance to participate in and see presented this CSZ original! Writing silly lines, singing with a group (I can't sing alone), dressing up, overacting, and



Allan Gold

working/playing with a group of fun-loving CSZ members is really a wonderful release for me.

Of course, not everybody likes to do this kind of thing. But I would guess that for many, the camaraderie in putting on an event, or just enjoying a party can be a time for connections and a chance to forget about everyday cares for a little while. I can remember enjoying putting up decorations or even cleaning up while dancing around to music. Putting food away after a High Holiday break-the-fast, schmoozing at our Passover Seder or Friday night onegs, or marching down Market Street holding our banner all give me a chance to make the kind of interpersonal connections that I've come to expect from CSZ. It is these moments that have meant so much to me in the 13 years of my membership.

I have often encouraged members to work in one way or another for CSZ—to join a committee, set up an event, usher at High Holidays, help out at child care. Now I invite you to play for yourself and CSZ. Come be a part of our Chanukah party: be creative with your decorating ideas, make a cameo appearance in *A Mah Jongg Chanukah*, have fun offering your special talents in the silent auction. If you're obsessively neat, have fun just cleaning up. If you're a compulsive spender, have fun bidding high at the silent auction or buying lots of raffle tickets. If you like to dance, have fun wowing the crowd with your latest steps. If you're looking for love, well, who knows? At least have fun looking. I guarantee that if you give CSZ the chance, you, too, can find moments of fun, playfulness, and even joy. Please join us for the Chanukah party on December 19 (and at all our holiday events). You deserve to have a good time!

Copies of High Holiday sermons given by Rabbi Kahn, Robin Leonard, and Larry Wexler are available through the synagogue office.

## Library Notes

As we proceed into winter, our library seems to see more activity since members find more time to read on a Shabbat or long wet weekend. For new members especially, you may not know that you may check out books, tapes, videos and records to take home, or use our reference books and periodicals in the library. Our "self check out" library is open during office hours and before Shabbat services. Books may be returned any time in the mail slot at the rear entrance.

Here are some suggestions for people with special interests:

**Parents and children:** We have a collection of children's books, many geared to the Jewish holidays. We also have some of the "Jewish" Sesame Street videos and some music records that children may enjoy. Older children may enjoy the Yiddish and Jewish folklore and legends collections which are located on the Literature shelf.

**Family historians:** We have two fascinating books for those of you interested in the origin of your family names or interested in pursuing research on your family history—Arthur Kurzweil's *From Generation to Generation*, and Dan Rothenberg's *Finding Our Fathers*. Another source for finding family or "roots" information is our *Encyclopædia Judaica*. The Sha'ar Zahav library is a good start for your research that will eventually lead you to the Jewish Library, the Holocaust Library and many other places.

**Caretakers and mourners:** Many of our books on life-cycle events address relevant issues. Of particular interest is UAHC's *What Happens After I Die*, and *The Jewish Way of Death and Mourning*, by Rabbi Alfred J. Koltach.

**Contributors:** You may contribute to the library for the purchase of a special book "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one. We have two reference book collections which we add to as new books are published which are very appropriate for these kinds of memorials. A book plate will be placed in the book cover.

**Periodical readers:** We have current issues of *Tikkun*, *Commentary*, *Moment*, *Judaism Midstream*, and *The Jewish Bulletin*, as well as a selection of back issues.

Many thanks to book donors Trudi and Steve Hauptman, Scott Mezistrano and Nikki Bengal.

—Ed Tanovitz



## Ida Kuluk

Queens County New York is once again the birthplace of a synagogue volunteer and leader. Growing up in Pomonok and Rochdale Village, Ida moved to Buffalo after high school to attend Buffalo State College. She had started "coming out" in high school and wrote a paper on gay liberation. While receiving her credentials as a nurse, she became active in the Women's Health Movement of the early 70s.

Ida moved west in 1975 "for the weather, gay life and left politics." Her trip by plane was quite different from her earliest fascination, which was "to travel west in a covered wagon." In the late 70s, she participated in protests in Walnut Creek concerning neo-Nazi groups, and observed Jewish organizations leading the events. Ida soon found herself sitting in the back row at Sha'ar Zahav services at the SFJCC. Without actually ever getting to know anyone, she "really wanted to be connected to a Jewish gay place, but could not identify what was pulling her to keep coming back." She joined, but left within a few years.

Ida rejoined Sha'ar Zahav after her son Evan was born. She thought it would be good for him to be in a Jewish atmosphere and attended Friday night services. Many members remember the quiet, red-haired child who participated almost every Friday. The surprise for Ida was that she found "the synagogue was really for me, not Evan. It provided a place for an exploration of thoughts and feelings about God, spirituality and morality."

After rejoining, Ida became an active member. She decided that to be con-

nected, she "needed to reach out and do something"—like children's programming, the pre-Kadimah Task Force, religious school committee, ushering, and ticket taker/food service helper at congregational events. Now she is less afraid to get to know people and make connections. Sha'ar Zahav has become her spiritual home. She never expected to find spiritual peace, but with the help of the rabbi and our liturgy she is a proud and happy congregant. Becoming a leader in the congregation has enabled her to "share in our creativity and future growth."

Evan, meanwhile, is very proud of his mom's role in the synagogue leadership and is supportive of all the time she must take from him to be a Va'ad

member. He has gained his own love of Judaism through attending services and Kadimah, as well as through his summertime Camp Swig experiences. Ida often finds him humming Jewish prayers and songs when he is alone. Evan lives in a world of supportive, extended gay families, and has found a way to develop his own friendships with adult members of the synagogue, Ida will occasionally bring her non-Jewish partner to synagogue activities. They enjoy being recognized as a family and value the lack of pressure to make a further religious commitment. Sha'ar Zahav "reaches out to us when we most need it, and we enjoy being asked to be part of this wonderful community."

—Paul Cohen

## Chanukah

*Continued from page 1*

whip up a batch using the recipe below or by using your own. We will have ovens available to us to reheat the latkes. Please call Shelley (641-0811) and let her know how many latkes you can bring. We also need volunteers to prepare sweet baked goods and fruit trays.

The raffle drawing will be held at the end of the evening. As this is a major fund-raiser for the congregation, please do your best to sell as many tickets as you can. If you need more tickets, please call the synagogue office.

The children's event for the evening will begin at 6 pm with games and festivities. The children will join the adults at 7 pm for Havdalah and candle lighting. Childcare will be available for the entire evening. Please call Emily (510/843-1405) to make a childcare reservation.

Many volunteers will be needed to make this event successful. We need people for the following tasks: set-up/decorating, clean-up, admission table/ticket sales, food preparation, childcare, videotaper and photographer, and more. We also need volunteers earlier on Saturday to help bring Laguna Honda residents from their rooms to a Kadimah presentation at 11 am and to a dress rehearsal at 2 pm. Please call Shelley (641-0811) or Jeff (441-2811) for volunteer opportunities.

Laguna Honda Hospital can be

reached by buses 36, 43, 44, 52 and 48 (which stops two blocks uphill from the hospital). There are 97 steps from the bus stop up to the hospital or it can be reached by a gradually sloping sidewalk near the car entry. Parking is available on hospital grounds. After entering the grounds take the second left, at which point you will be in front of the hospital building where there will be a limited number of spaces. Continue on the road (it will curve to the right) and you will reach two small lots. If these are full go over the bridge towards the large greenhouse where there will be a large lot.

See you on the 19th!

## Latkes

6 medium size potatoes

1 onion

2 eggs

½ cup flour

1 teaspoon salt

Vegetable shortening or oil for deep frying

Pare and grate potatoes into a mixing bowl. Squeeze out liquid. Peel and grate onion into potatoes. Add eggs, flour and salt and stir to make a smooth batter that will drop heavily from the spoon. Heap the shortening in a heavy frying pan using enough to cover the pancakes amply. Drop the batter from a spoon into the hot shortening, making pancakes 3 inches in diameter. Fry over moderate heat until brown on the underside, turn to brown. Lift out and drain off excess fat on paper towel. Pancakes fried in deep fat should be puffed and crisp. Serves 4 to 6.

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## November Va'ad Report

The November Va'ad meeting opened with Rabbi Kahn leading us in a discussion of our own personal views of God. As a basis for our discussion, we read another passage from *Reform Judaism: A Centenary Perspective*. Some of us recognized that a belief in God can be a great motivator for helping people work together. In addition, we seemed to agree that a particular part of the passage had a major significance to CSZ: We ground our lives, personally and communally, on God's reality and remain open to new experiences and conceptions of the Divine.

In his Treasurer's Report and subsequent discussion, Gary Sokol expressed his general satisfaction with the way our budget and revenues were developing. There was some concern, however, with lagging revenues for the General Fund and for Oneg sponsorships. The Va'ad will have to find ways to encourage more participation in these areas.

Next in the area of finance matters came a lengthy discussion of revenues received for High Holiday tickets for non-members. There was a perception that a number of non-member ticket holders had taken advantage of a low-income option which had been made available to them. The Va'ad voted to embark on a campaign to educate the guests of members and other non-members on the actual costs of the synagogue operation in general, and the High Holiday arrangements in particular. In addition, the Va'ad will try to arrive at a ticket structure which will be simpler to administer. Above all, the Va'ad was concerned with balancing the issue of fairness for everyone with the issue of accessibility for everyone.

Building Chair Ellen Gierson has been given the responsibility of testing and reviewing various options for a sound system for the sanctuary. Ellen recommended a new, high quality professional sound system which not only would meet our present needs, but also would meet our needs if we ever moved into a larger structure. For the purchase of this system, the Va'ad authorized the expenditure of \$3700 from the Building Fund.

In addition to the review of the sound system, Ellen had been charged with another project. Several months ago a Va'ad member asked for a thorough examination of our various insurance

coverages, including fire, theft, comprehensive general liability, directors and officers, etc. Ellen delivered her report, and was enthusiastically aided by the lawyers on the Va'ad. While generally satisfied with the results of our review, we will look into increasing the limits of liability in certain areas. The fact that we have no earthquake coverage was not a major concern.

In October, two Va'ad members drafted a letter to Richard Rosenberg, Chairman and CEO of the Bank of

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### Birthdays

2	Robert Sterman
2	Thomas Yazman
4	Paul Quin
6	Susan Kaplan
6	Karen Fierer
7	Debbi Jacobs-Levine
8	Merry Luskin
8	George Lucas
10	Sonia Diana Douglass
12	Lane Schickler
12	Walter Leiss
12	Bill Goldstein
14	Jill Rose
15	Phil Charney
15	Ron Lezell
18	Ethan Ubell
19	David Shaber
19	Don Albert
20	Michele Sullivan
20	Hannah Jae Cohen-Blair
22	Ellen Murland
23	Daniel Rosenfeld-Sharp
23	Evan Kuluk
24	Max Blachman-Gentile
24	Katherine Rosenblum
26	Jose Luis Moscovich
29	Susan Gelmis
29	David M.
30	Stan Kern
31	Greer Hauptman
31	Sam Thal

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America. The letter, with some modifications, went out with the signatures of Rabbi Kahn and President Allan Gold. The fundamental issue was our concern with the Bank's support of the Boy Scouts, who have continued to exhibit

discriminatory policies and actions. Mr. Rosenberg's response was received just before the Va'ad meeting. In his letter, Mr. Rosenberg affirmed that the Boy Scouts "would be eligible for consideration for charitable contributions in the future." After a careful review of Mr. Rosenberg's letter, the Va'ad voted to pull our funds out of Bank of America, to investigate transferring those funds to a bank which was not donating to the Boy Scouts, and to publicize to the media the reasons for our decisions.

New members continue to join CSZ, and at this Va'ad meeting we approved thirteen new applicants.

What is Midrasha? Midrasha is the East Bay Jewish Community High School. It is considered to be a continuation of each congregation's religious school. CSZ now has two students who are post Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and are East Bay residents, who are interested in continuing their Jewish education. Rabbi Kahn proposed that CSZ affiliate with Midrasha, so that any of our students who wish to continue their education could do so at a reduced rate. The students would pay a certain amount, and the Congregation would be expected to pay \$110 per student. This motion passed unanimously.

Also in the area of educational concerns, Simon Glinsky has agreed to be coordinator of the Congregation's preschool programs. He will be working both with parents and with Phyllis Mintzer to develop educational experiences for the preschoolers.

Allan distributed a proposed Chanukah party budget for the Va'ad's review and comments.

The Va'ad learned that the Interior Ministry of Israel has just promulgated regulations which call for the HIV testing of some Jewish immigrants. Under new guidelines, the government has decided to invoke a clause in the Law of Return to deny immigration right to Jews who have AIDS or test positive for HIV. The Va'ad deplored this action by the Israeli government, and will be asking our various representatives to bring our point of view to the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and the Jewish Community Relations Council. In addition, we will

*Continued on page 6*



## Va'ad

*Continued from page 5*  
make our concerns known to the gay and lesbian press and to the Jewish press.

In his Rabbi's Report, Rabbi Kahn briefly outlined the scope of his travels over the previous weeks. At the UAHC Northeast Regional Biennial, he spoke on *Diversity in our Congregations* and led a workshop on gay and lesbian issues and the synagogue. Further, Rabbi Kahn reported that the Adult Education enrollment for the current semester was the most successful ever, and that eight women have formed a study group in order to prepare for a joint adult Bat Mitzvah for the spring of 1994.

President Allan Gold reminded us that the Oneg on November 20 would be in honor of all the volunteers who help to make CSZ the wonderful place that it is. In addition, Allan asked us to try to come up with groups or organizations which could be potential renters of space in the synagogue.

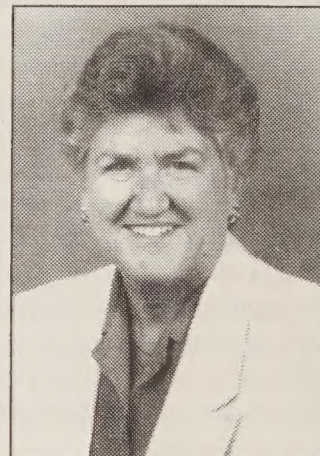
Nearly three and a half hours from the start of the Va'ad meeting, we concluded the evening with a rather bleary-eyed rendition of *Oseh Shalom*.

—Mark Mackler, Recorder

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## Women's Shabbat Dinner

Don't miss the next Women's Shabbat Dinner, prior to services on Friday evening, December 11, beginning at 6:30 pm in the synagogue library. Shabbat dinners are a great way to meet other women in the congregation and to plan upcoming Women's Chavurah activities. The catered dinners are \$9 for adults and \$3 for children. Please RSVP to Audrey Adelson (510/849-3021) by Wednesday, December 9.

## Naches

To **Richard Sinkoff** on his new job as assistant port environmental planner with the Port of Oakland.

To **Lisa Katz** on the arrival of her new Saturn.

To **Rebecca Gradolph and Deborah Godner** on their wedding November 8.

To **Merry Luskin** on her new job with The Foundation for Glaucoma Research.

To **Carolyn Pines** on her new job with International Consulting & Business Management.





Congregation Sha'ar Zahav  
invites you to a

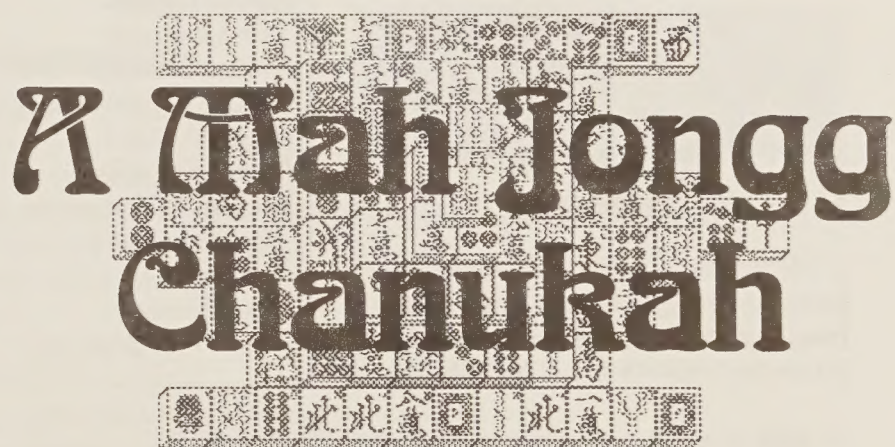
# Chanukah Candlelighting and Celebration!

Saturday, December 19 at  
Laguna Honda Hospital's Simon Theatre  
375 Laguna Honda Blvd.

(opposite the Forrest Hill MUNI Station)

**\$7 members / \$9 nonmembers / children free**

*Come see the  
Sha'ar Zahav Players  
in a newly written play,*



The evening begins at 7 pm with Havdalah and candlelighting.  
Be sure to bring your menorah and don't forget the candles.

**EAT! DRINK! DANCE!  
SILENT AUCTION! RAFFLE PRIZES!  
CHILDREN'S FESTIVITIES!**

Children's festivities begin at 6 pm. Childcare available.



## Israeli Group

*Continued from page 1*

gay and lesbian Israelis living in the Bay Area know that they are around. If you have any local Israeli friends, please let them know of Tzahal.

Gathering in people's homes thus far, the group has grown and is looking for a larger space to rent or to have donated, which would be suitable for larger parties and dancing.

Tzahal's next "event" will be a Chanukah party. Israelis or "Israeli-connected" people who are interested in the party or additional information can call 510/233-9998.

## New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

**Jerry Davis**  
**Judy Dlugacz**  
**Lisa Halton**  
**Sam Kaplan**  
**Norman List**  
**Rick Mehler**  
**Jeffrey Mittman**  
**Decius Rowland**  
**David Traynham**  
**Carol Barnett**  
**Melissa Levin**  
**Ellen Meyers**

We're grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

# Dr. Diane Sabin

## CHIROPRACTOR

281 Noe (at Market), San Francisco, CA 94114 415/252-5500

## High Holiday Donations

*(Received between October 14 and November 9)*

Steve Addison	Lee Hunt and Joan	Jerry Rosenstein
Susan Amdur	Meiser	Stephen Rosenthal
Janet E. Arnesty	Robert Kaiser	Jeffrey Rubin
Peter Barnes	Marilyn Kalman	Stanley Saitowitz
Rabbi Pamela and	Jean and Norman Katz	Paige Schaffer
Michael Baugh	Mark Klaiman	Lane Schickler
Amy Beck	Janet Klern	Debby Schlanger
Dan Bellm	Lisa Kokin	Jonathan Schwartz
Leonard Brill	Ellen Kugler	Diana Scott and Joel
Barbara Brown	Jean Kushman	Schechter
Miriam Cantor	Robin Leonard and	Fred Silverman
Sarah Cline	Lee Ryan	Miriam Simos
Ellen Elias	Simma Lieberman	Ralph Singer
Julie Fishman	Craig Lipton	Mark Solomons
Jeff Forman and Paul	Eileen Lynette	Charles Spiegel and
Nemrow	Judy Macks	James Emery
Rena Frantz	Andrew Mann	Kip and Nahid
Barak Gale	Patrick Margolit	Steinberg
Steven Gaynes	Jane Mesinger	Dore Steinberg
Don Gerstman	Eve Meyer and Jim	Ronica Stern
Walter Grendell	Edlin	Laura Strauss and
Arnold Grossman	Jaime Michaels	Gary Birnbaum
Bruce Haller	Sherri Nessenson	Laura Stuchinsky
Joseph Hample	Charles Norton	Rob Talbot
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David Helbraun	Ora Prochovnick	Neil Thall
Tom Herz	Donna Rabinowitz	Marion Trentman
Jason Honig	Roz Reiter	Nan Weiner and
	M.D. Robbins	Joshua Kesman

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## Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions of all sizes to mark any event, and to add to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless otherwise requested.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

### General Fund

*We encourage donations to the General Fund in particular, because such donations can be used for any synagogue purpose.*

In honor of the birth of Evan Martin Arnold-Gordon:

Steve Elman and Tom Holt  
Robin Leonard and Lee Ryan  
Don Albert  
Richard Inlander and Ben Schalit  
Ora Prochovnick and Rena Frantz  
Larry Wexler  
Allan Berenstein  
Eric and Aaron Cooper-Keitel  
Sharyn Saslafsky and Catherine Dodd  
Jerry Rosenstein

In honor of the birth of Benjamin Woody Bernard-Herman:

Steve Elman and Tom Holt  
Robin Leonard and Lee Ryan

Shelley Eisenman

Judy Schwartz and Carolyn Pines  
Steve Elman and Tom Holt, in honor of the High Holidays pitchers and sermonizers

Julie Moed and Shelley Eisenman, in honor of Gail Friedlander and Gail Atkins' 16th anniversary

Sharon Heath

Richard Sinkoff, in honor of his new job with the Port of Oakland

Michelle Sullivan, in honor of Merry Luskin

Jon Funk and John Arnold, in honor of Nina Gordon

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Dr. Sherman Greenberg

Bruce Katz, in honor of Ron Lezell's commitment to, and hard work for, the Jewish community

Perry Paker, in memory of Isidor Paker

Arnie Jackson

Jon Funk, in memory of Bette Beerman Haskell

### AIDS Fund

Maurie Schwartz

Ellen Lewin, in memory of her grandmother, Maria Lewin

### Children's Education Fund

Sherie Koshover, in memory of Dorothy Camp

### Education Fund

Richard Sinkoff, in celebration of his upcoming vacation to visit family in the second homeland, NYC, with his partner, Stephen

### Kaiser Brunch Fund

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Larry Daniel's father

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Henry Carrey, in memory of David and Abraham Carrey

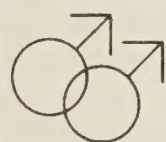
Francine Frohlich and Stache Murray, in honor of Raena Kilby-Frohlich

### Stein/Chesir Fund

Susan Greenspan, in memory of John Golebowski, Ernie Weinstein and Bill Schlichter

Steve Elman and Tom Holt, in honor of Jonathan Comisar's beautiful composition

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### Anniversaries

- 1 Liz Goodman & Ellen Lewin
- 6 Susan & Linda Fraimow-Wong
- 14 Shelley Spiro & Gabrielle Kassner
- 17 Amy Weston & Bonnie Bishop
- 19 Elizabeth Katz & Jeanne Goodrich
- 28 Shelley Adler & Susan Weinstein
- 28 Steve Cronenwalt & Gene Ware
- 31 Steve & Florence Nacamulli

### Estate Planning for Gay and Lesbian Couples

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Members of the congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$18/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Lane Schickler (chair), Shelley Adler, Judy Heiman, Richard Inlander, Betty Kalis, Rose Katz, Robin Leonard, Martha Moon, Carolyn Pines,

and Ivan Vincente (general editorial and production), Michael Bettinger (photographer), Rick Wilson (advertising coordinator), Liz Goodman, Sam Thal, and Eli Weinstein (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Mouse Type Inc., and printed by Lou Greene.

•  
**Display Ads** are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or

artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

**Classified Ads** are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the second Monday of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.



## Oneg Sponsors

These generous people sponsored onegs in September:

- 13 Anonymous couple, in honor of the fifth anniversary of their kiddushin
- 20 Jon Funk and John Arnold, in honor of the birth of Evan Arnold-Gordon

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an oneg is \$50. For co-sponsoring—in honor of a member's birthday or anniversary—the cost is only \$10.

You can also add a more personal touch by providing flowers (for the bima or oneg room) or special food to celebrate your occasion.

## Women's December Potluck

The Women's Chavurah has scheduled its next bi-monthly potluck for Saturday night, December 12, at the home of Janis Portal, 146 Brighton St., in San Francisco. We'll begin at 7 pm with a brief Havdalah service, followed by a potluck dinner and time to shmooze.

Directions: Exit Highway 280 at Ocean Avenue. Go west on Ocean to Brighton and turn left. Call Janis (587-6399) for more detailed directions. If your last name begins with A-H, please bring a main dish; I-P, a dessert; Q-Z, a side dish. See you on the 12th.

## Classifieds

**HAIRCUTS!** Sick? Stuck at home? Call Shelley (415) 598-9300 for appointments in your home.

**MOVING TRAUMA?** Specialist in packing kitchens, fine china, glass, art and electronics. Superb care, CSZ references. Home or office. Free binding estimate. Cardinal Packing. (415) 759-5638.

## Condolences

To **Michael Bettinger**, on the death of his friend, Robert Parker.

To **Trudi Hauptman**, on the death of her father, Shua Ben Mordechai v'Zelda Chamoff

## The Younger Set

This week in Kadimah we talked about what makes a good friend. Benjie said that a good friend was someone who is polite at dinner and says please. He also said a good friend was someone who cared about a friend's health. Anna said a good friend is someone who cheers people up. Micah said a good friend is someone to have fun with. Jonah said a good friend is someone who helps and is kind to you.

The whole class decided that three examples of being a good friend in the Bible are:

Abraham inviting the strangers into his tent and feeding them; Rebecca giving water to Abraham's servant; and Abraham asking God not to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah if good people could be found there.

## CSZ Fiction Connection

*Family Dancing? Years From Now? Mr. Mani? And the Bridge Is Love? A Letter to Harvey Milk?*

What do these titles have in common? They are just a few of the books which the CSZ Fiction Connection has devoured over the past three years. We meet once a month either in a home or restaurant. Over a pleasant meal, we discuss a good (or sometimes, not so good) book which we had previously chosen to read. We will be meeting on Thursday, December 10 at 7:30 pm to discuss our current selection, Lev Raphael's new novel *Winter Eyes*.

Please call Mark Mackler evenings (826-8733) for details about the Fiction Connection. We invite you to join us!

## Hills of Eternity Memorial Park

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## Women's Adult Bat Mitzvah Group

CSZ's first women's adult *Bat Mitzvah* group was launched after a recent meeting at the synagogue. The self-directed group has scheduled a potluck Torah study and organizational gathering in the CSZ library for Saturday, December 12 after morning services. Members of the group are looking forward to a festive *Bat Mitzvah* ceremony in spring of 1994. If you are interested in finding out about this new group, please contact Nikki Bengal (752-2735).

## Conference

*Continued from page 1*

Felice Yeskel, *Issues for Jewish Women Activists* conducted by Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz, and two workshops focusing on lesbian couples.

One highlight for me was the Friday night candle-lighting: coming into a room with hundreds of Shabbat candles waiting to be lit and each of us lighting one. The Kabbalat Shabbat was facilitated by members of B'not Esh, a twelve-year old Jewish Feminist Collective.

Another highlight was a storytelling workshop in which women spoke from the silence we created as we entered the room and sat in a circle. Some women spoke of pain brought up by feeling they were not observant enough, or not schooled enough to be at the conference, while others shared their joy of being in a setting where they did not feel isolated as they did in their own communities. I experienced both the joy of belonging and the usual concerns I bring to a gathering about whether I fit in (where were the lesbians, the social workers, the activists? Do I know enough about Judaism?).

I saw many women at the conference hungry for the opportunity to share experiences in small groups. The conference didn't provide for this. Lesbians took this need into our own hands, organizing a lesbian lunch the second day, where the hot topic was sexuality.

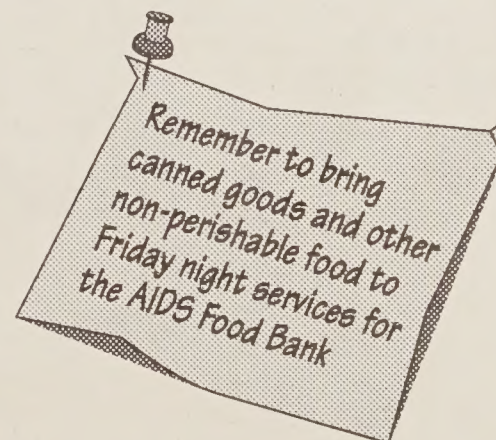
I led a workshop on Jewish lesbian kiddushin, inspired by my own ceremony at Sha'ar Zahav, and what I had learned as my partner and I planned it with Rabbi Kahn and the minister of my partner's church, Jim Mitulski. Among those who attended the workshop were

Synagogue Information	
<p><b>Rabbi Yoel Kahn</b> (861-6932)</p> <p><b>Officers:</b>  <i>President</i>, Allan Gold (929-9524)  <i>Administrative Vice President</i>, Tiela Chalmers  <i>Program Vice President</i>, Lisa Katz  <i>Treasurer</i>, Gary Sokol  <i>Recorder</i>, Mark Mackler</p>	<p><b>Va'ad (Board) Members:</b>            Phil Charney            Daniel Chesir            Ida Kuluk            Ron Lezell            Ora Prochovnick            Nathan Robinson            Judy Schwartz            Steve Unger            Susan Unger</p>
<p><b>Office Personnel:</b>  <i>Administrator</i>, Mark Pressler  <i>Secretary</i>, Jim Cotant</p> <p><b>Committee Chairs:</b>  <i>Archivist</i>, open  <i>Bequests and Donations</i>, Tiela Chalmers  <i>Bikkur Cholim</i>, by committee  <i>Brotherhood</i>, Phil Charney  <i>Building</i>, Ellen Gierson  <i>Bylaws</i>, Edward Pollock  <i>Cemetery</i>, Richard Inlander  <i>Children's Chavurah</i>, Audrey Adelson &amp; Joan Lefkowitz  <i>Cookbook Project</i>, Robin Leonard  <i>Dues</i>, David Stein &amp; Ron Lezell  <i>Education</i>, Don Albert</p>	<p><i>Finance</i>, Brett Trueman  <i>Gift Shop</i>, Jeff Rubin  <i>Israel Chavurah</i>, Ron Lezell  <i>Leadership Development</i>, Paul Cohen  <i>Long-Range Planning</i>, Tiela Chalmers  <i>Membership</i>, Carolyn Pines  <i>Newsletter</i>, Lane Schickler  <i>Oneg</i>, Donna Rabinowitz  <i>Past Presidents Council</i>, Don Albert  <i>Personnel</i>, Tiela Chalmers  <i>Public Relations</i>, Sharyn Saslasky  <i>Religious School</i>, Mary Morgan  <i>Ritual</i>, Frank Yellin  <i>Social Action</i>, Stan Kem  <i>Social Program</i>, by committee  <i>Volunteer Coordinator</i>, Robin Leonard  <i>Women's Chavurah</i>, Susan Tubbesing</p>
<p><i>Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.</i></p>	
<p><b>Office Hours:</b> Monday–Friday from 9 am to 4 pm. Rabbi's office hours by appointment. Please call the synagogue office at 861-6932.</p> <p><b>Emergency Number:</b> In an emergency, the congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 861-6938.</p> <p><b>Services</b> are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—check calendar for each month.</p> <p><b>Gift Shop Hours:</b> Fridays, 7:30–8:05 pm</p>	<p><b>Library Hours:</b> Open during office hours, and 30 minutes before and after Friday night services.</p> <p><b>Member</b> of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Allyce Kimerling, Liaisons) and of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Marc Mencher, Liaison).</p> <p><b>Congregation Sha'ar Zahav</b> (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th and Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.</p>

a couple from Victoria, B.C., who worked with the rabbi and congregation of their Conservative synagogue to educate their synagogue members about the significance and validity of their ceremony.

The conference was sponsored by the Association of Women in Psychology Jewish Women's Caucus. If you would like more information about the caucus, write Sharon Siegel, 8325 Santa Monica Blvd., #303, Los Angeles, CA 90046.

—Tova Green





## כסלו-טבת

## DECEMBER

### 1 Tuesday 6 Kislev

- 7pm, Crocheting Yarmulkas
- 7pm, Introduction to Judaism
- 7pm, Exploring the Sources
- 8:30pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
- 8:30pm, Origins of Zionism

### 2 Wednesday 7 Kislev

- 7:30pm, Torah Chanting at JCC

### 3 Thursday 8 Kislev

- 7pm, Children's Education meeting

### 4 Friday 9 Kislev

- 8:15pm, Shabbat Service, Jody Reiss and Nikki Bengal

### 5 Saturday 10 Kislev

- 9:30am, Kadimah

### 6 Sunday 11 Kislev

### 7 Monday 12 Kislev

- Va'ad reports due in office
- 6pm, Healing Service

### 8 Tuesday 13 Kislev

- 7pm, Crocheting Yarmulkas
- 7pm, Introduction to Judaism
- 7pm, Exploring the Sources
- 8:30pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
- 8:30pm, Origins of Zionism

### 9 Wednesday 14 Kislev

### 10 Thursday 15 Kislev

- 7pm, Bikkur Cholim committee
- 7:30pm, Fiction Connection, call 826-8733 for details

### 11 Friday 16 Kislev

- 6:30pm, Women's Chavurah catered dinner
- 8:15pm, Shabbat Service, Rabbi Kahn and Linda Hirschhorn

### 12 Saturday 17 Kislev

- 9:30am, Kadimah
- 10:30am, Shabbat Service
- Following service, potluck and discussion for women interested in adult bat mitzvah
- 7pm, Women's Chavurah havdalah and potluck

### 13 Sunday 18 Kislev

### 14 Monday 19 Kislev

- 6pm, Healing Service
- 6:30pm, Va'ad meeting

### 15 Tuesday 20 Kislev

### 16 Wednesday 21 Kislev

- 7pm, Newsletter editing

### 17 Thursday 22 Kislev

- 6:30pm, Ritual meeting

### 18 Friday 23 Kislev

- Noon, Job seekers' bag lunch with Rabbi Kahn in library
- 8:15pm, Shabbat Service, Steve Weitz

### 19 Saturday 24 Kislev

- 11am, Kadimah Chanukah family activity, Laguna Honda Hospital
- 7pm, Chanukah party, Simon Auditorium, Laguna Honda Hospital

### 20 Sunday 25 Kislev

### 21 Monday 26 Kislev

- 6pm, Healing Service
- 7pm, Newsletter proofreading/layout

### 22 Tuesday 27 Kislev

### 23 Wednesday 28 Kislev

### 24 Thursday 29 Kislev

- Project Open Hand meal deliveries
- 7:30pm, Women's Chavurah game night

### 25 Friday 1 Tevet

- Project Open Hand meal deliveries
- 8:15pm, Shabbat Service, Rabbi Kahn and Jonathan Comisar

### 26 Saturday 2 Tevet

- Bikkur Cholim visit board and care homes

### 27 Sunday 3 Tevet

- 10:30am, Kaiser Brunch

### 28 Monday 4 Tevet

- 6pm, Healing Service

### 29 Tuesday 5 Tevet

### 30 Wednesday 6 Tevet

- 7pm, Newsletter distribution

### 31 Thursday 7 Tevet

Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.

## DEADLINE

The deadline for all submissions to the January *Gaily Forward* is

**Monday, December 14**

No late submissions will be published without a deadline extension arranged in advance with the newsletter chair. Any CSZ member is welcome to submit articles of interest to our readership. Please type and double-space your articles. You may mail or fax (861-6081) your material to CSZ, Attn: *Gaily Forward*.

## East Bay Services

12/18 Note change of location:  
Ed Tanovitz', 1612 East 38th  
St., Oakland (510/482-4825)

1/15 To be announced

2/19 To be announced